

THE SENSATION AT ALBANY.

Report of the Special Committee on the Weed-Irving Bill.

The "Severest Punishment" to Have Been Meted Out to the Festive "Jim."

Scene of Confusion in the Assembly.

Spirited Debate Preliminary to the Introduction of the Report.

The Resolution of Censure Adopted Unanimously.

How the Boss Will Work His Wires.

The Necessary Republicans to be Purchased.

ALBANY, April 11, 1871. The excitement created last evening over the resignation of Irving, the debate upon which appeared to foreshadow a determination on the part of one or two members of the committee to finally

WIND UP THE INVESTIGATION

with a resolution of expulsion, was by no means unattended when the House reassembled this morning. Everybody expected a lively discussion, and the crush of outsiders to get into the galleries, and even upon the floor of the House, with or without a pass, was immense in consequence. Long before the House had been called to order the doorkeepers had their hands full to preserve order and prevent individual "mills" between the seekers after place, position and comfort. Indeed, when the prayer had been concluded the crowd upon the floor of the House had become so great that several members, who had managed by dint of much elbowing to get outside the lobby doors, were unable to reach their seats. The confusion finally became so great that the Speaker had to order the doors closed and to revoke all the passes he had issued for the day. When all this had been accomplished Mr. Fields rose to

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

and said:—The special committee appointed by this House to investigate the occurrence which took place here on the evening of the 7th of April have concluded the taking of the testimony in the case, and are not yet ready to make their final report. I should think that the House would be disposed to wait until the testimony, printed in order to read it to the House, and preparing our report, could not be accomplished until before to-morrow morning. The House, however, has decided to wait until the report is made, and the House will adjourn until to-morrow morning.

THE SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS MADE BY THE RESPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ENTERED ON THE JOURNAL.

Mr. A. V. ROSE to speak. Mr. Fields rose to a question of order, and said that under the order of the House last evening, unless the House reconsidered its action, no business of any kind could be transacted until the committee should come in with its report. The Speaker directed the clerk to read the resolution of last evening; he was not clear as to its meaning. The Clerk read the resolution.

The Speaker—I will state that it is within the province of the House to reconsider this resolution, and that, without attempting to decide to the House, the Chair has the duty of the House to its constituents requires that the resolution should be reconsidered.

Mr. Fields—I rise to a question of order. I ask for the enforcement of the fifty-seventh rule. Look at the state of the Assembly Chamber.

After some delay the House was cleared of all not members or officers, and the Chair revoked all passes previously issued.

Mr. Alvord—I rise to a question of privilege. My question of privilege is, is it that having been placed upon this investigating committee I have devoted my whole time and consideration to the matter before the committee, and have constantly urged upon all occasions that the committee should arrive at a definite conclusion as soon as possible, so that they might report at the earliest possible moment. But, as a member of this House, I desire to be present at its deliberations, and it is impossible for me to sit in committee during the session of the House, and at the same time perform my duty to my constituents and to the people of the State.

If the House remains in session until two o'clock it is very doubtful whether between that and seven o'clock the committee will be able to make their report. And if the House should then sit from seven till ten it would deprive the committee of the opportunity of their ordinary sleep, or else let their meeting go over till to-morrow morning, and possibly not be able to report by the morning session. I think that the House should adjourn this evening so that we will be able, without any doubt, to bring this report before the House by that time.

Mr. Fields—I desire to say that not only the gentleman from Onondaga, but every gentleman on the committee—no more than any other member of the House—expressed their desire in committee and out of it to proceed with the investigation in the most rapid manner that it could be prosecuted with justice, and arrive at a conclusion as soon as possible. The House has been out of session since the committee on that point. I think the gentleman from Onondaga will say so to that.

Now, Mr. Fields, it is my duty, as chairman of the committee, to state to this House the case as it stands. Yesterday afternoon a large amount of testimony was taken, and the committee were engaged in preparing their report. This morning at the time the committee met, at nine o'clock, he had the testimony of but one witness who was examined yesterday evening. It is not the preparation of the report of the committee that is going to exhaust the time. I venture to say, as chairman of the committee, that if it devolves upon me to prepare the report of the committee I can do so in one hour, or at least to state it in a summary in one hour. The delay will be, it is true, in the writing out and printing of the report. So far as the actual labor is concerned any gentleman on the committee could dictate the report in one hour. It is for this House to decide whether, under these circumstances, it will delay the transaction of its business until seven o'clock this evening.

No member of the committee need be absent from the sessions of the House except the one actually preparing the report, or if this is to be a majority and minority report the persons preparing them, and an adjournment would therefore be simply for the sake of one or two gentlemen. I know of no majority in this committee. I have seen nothing in the committee that induces me to believe that there will be a majority and minority report. I do not wish to place anything in the way of a speedy conclusion of this matter. If the House desires it I am ready to adjourn for a week or a month or until this investigation is completed; but it is for the House to decide whether under the circumstances any adjournment is necessary.

The Speaker said unless a motion was made to reconsider he would declare a recess until evening. Mr. D. BURNS favored a reconsideration of the resolution on similar grounds to those urged by Mr. Fields. He moved to reconsider the resolution of last evening.

Mr. ALVORD insisted that it was necessary for the committee to come together in calm deliberation upon that sort of a report they should make. In his judgment it would cause considerable amicable debate in the committee to settle upon a course of action and to prepare such a report as should be presented in so important a matter. Upon the motion of Mr. Burns he called the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Mr. LITTLETON said—I consider and believe that the action of this House at this time involves the safety, good order and dignity of those who shall succeed us from year to year. Is the citizen who in whom I have had the honor to stand upon this floor has never seen the dignity of this House as it was on last Friday evening?

Mr. Fields—I rise to a question of order. The gentleman is a member of the Committee of Investigation, and I submit that it is improper at this time, as he has not expressed his judgment in committee upon the matter before it, and as he is not speaking on the report of the committee, to express here his judgment upon an occurrence on which he is acting as judge.

The Speaker—The Chair will decide that the point of order is not well taken, and will leave that question to the gentleman's own judgment and good sense.

Mr. LITTLETON—The Chair decides properly, for

the gentleman will not depart from the rules of propriety. Mr. Fields—Any more than he has already done. Mr. LITTLETON—I spoke of the occurrence of Friday last as an argument of this whole investigation should be carried on with dignity and with regard to propriety, and that we should not adjourn until it was finished. Now, sir, I come to my own individual case. I represent a constituency on this floor. The Chair has placed me upon a committee without any seeking of that position on my part. He has imposed upon me a responsibility which I must meet. I owe another responsibility and duty, and that is to my constituents. We are upon the eve of the close of this session. Legislation is passing here rapidly before us, and it requires the keepest perception to know what is going on from minute to minute in this House. I cannot neglect the interests of my constituency. Bills are in progress through the House which the interests of the State demand should not pass, and I cannot leave my seat to take part in the deliberations of a committee while the House is in session.

After a little further discussion the roll was called on the motion of Mr. Burns. Several members made remarks in asking to be excused from voting. The motion to reconsider was lost by a vote of 77 to 34, and the House then adjourned amid considerable confusion to seven P. M. Promptly at that hour the members were all in their seats again. The crowd was quite as prompt in getting into the galleries, and the excitement was fully as great as it had been in the morning. No prayer was said, and the Speaker at once announced that the first business in order was the

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. Fields rose and said that the committee had unanimously agreed upon a report, which he would send to the clerk to be read to the House. The committee, after stating that they have given the case a full investigation, conclude their report as follows:—

Mr. Irving having resigned his seat as a member of the Assembly from the Sixth Assembly district of the county of New York, and no one having appeared against Mr. Weed, your committee feel that they have discharged their duty in reporting the testimony taken before the committee to the House, with the following resolution:—

Resolved, That in the judgment of the House the conduct of Mr. Irving, late a member thereof from the Sixth Assembly district in the county of New York, during its session on Friday evening, April 7, 1871, was a high breach of its privileges and the rights of its members, and if he (Mr. Irving) had remained a member of this House he would have deserved the severest punishment that the House could inflict.

THOS. C. FIELDS,  
ALEX. FRAZER,  
G. W. NICHOLAS,  
D. C. LITTLETON.

There was the utmost silence during the reading of the report, which lasted for a second or so after Armstrong had left the desk. Fields was the first person to break it, and he did so simply by moving

THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION.  
Ex-Governor Alvord then demanded the yeas and nays on the motion, and thus the vote was taken. Every member answered to his name in a loud tone of voice, which seemed all the louder owing to the painful silence which reigned around. There were 104 members present, and only two voted against the resolution. The Speaker (Mr. Hitchman) and Mr. Aiken, who, it will be remembered, testified so positively yesterday before the committee that Weed struck Irving first at the Clerk's desk, Hitchman and Aiken changed their votes to the affirmative, however, before the tally was announced. Flanagan, of New York, had undoubtedly

against his old friend; but his path, like that of all his political colleagues, had been laid out for him, whether he liked it or not. Personal friendship had to give way to party policy. The committee, let me say, were unable to reach a unanimous vote in favor of the resolution reported, until, at last, one of them had been convinced that a resolution of expulsion could not be made. A thorough rummaging among a stock of law books satisfied him of this, finally, and he, despite his spite, had to fall into line with the majority. Now that this sensation of the hour has got its quietus at last, everybody is beginning to discuss, with a livelier interest than ever, about

HOW THE "BOSS" WILL MANAGE  
to get the levy, the Registration bill and the election law through. The speaker, who is so far from being a certain republican who is said to be "all right" in a democratic point of view, but they are too busy to justify the publication of the name of the suspected party. People who are interested in the welfare of these things may rest assured, however, that if the "Boss" does not give them the go-by he can have them passed any day he sees fit. The great trouble will be, not how to get a republican vote, but which one of how many of the ten members on the minority side of the House will have their price shall be the happy effect. The fact is the supply of the purchasable article on hand is far greater than the demand will require, and

ACTIVE COMPETITION.  
You know, will make the price of the elect less expensive to the majority in the long run than if they had to depend upon a solitary "traitor," as Horace would say.

THE STIPPLE BILL.  
Was reported this evening by Mr. Jacobs and was made the special order for to-morrow afternoon, when a session will be held for that purpose. The committee refused to expose the bill to the vulgar gaze of anybody not a member of it until to-morrow. It can be stated, however, that it is a million and a half more than last year's bill. Harbinger gave the New Yorkers a warning to-night in the Senate about the law taxes were being increased. He said that the rate last year was eight mills, and that if the party in the Senate were determined to favor every kind of appropriation and claim bill they came across the rate would be increased, and that the people would not tolerate New York city might roll up its democratic majorities no matter how the rate stood, but the country would not overlook hurtful legislation that could be prevented by economy.

FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—"YOBODY'S CHILD."  
Some thirty years ago Mr. William Creswick made his first appearance in this city at the Park theatre, and during his career on the American stage he gained laurels such as only befit the brow of a true artist. Last night he made his first appearance here after such a long interval that only the gray-haired survivors of the ancient régime could remember the dashing young actor who was such a favorite at the old Park. Yet during this long interval William Creswick has achieved a reputation in England such as any actor might be proud of. Miss Laura Keane is a recognized favorite on the American boards and has been always considered as a true, conscientious, painstaking actress. Her engagement at Lina Edwin's was a decided and sustained success, and in "Haunted House" she added new laurels to her chaplet of renown. We mention the facts regarding the professional career of both of these artists, preliminary to expressing our admiration at the want of judgment, and even common business capacity, shown by them in selecting such a conglomeration of trash and worthlessness as "Nobody's Child," the piece in which they appeared last night. It is one of the least interesting of the Bowers sensation dramas, and even the old Museum audiences turned their backs at it. It was written expressly for Mr. Creswick (so the bill states) by Watts Phillips, but to our way of thinking it would have saved the actor a great deal of unnecessary trouble had he, in the beginning, consigned it to the flames or to the shelf of oblivion. It would be unfair to judge of the merits of Mr. Creswick from a piece of this kind, as even in the utter inability of the title role he gave unmistakable evidence of artistic taste and culture, which long stage experience alone can bring. This is a great triumph, considering that the title role is that of a semi-pitiful Van Winkle, who always talks in broken, broken English. He is sorry that he should have selected such a play for his debut—as we may call it—as there was quite an assortment created in theatrical circles about him. When he makes his bow in a play worthy of him there is every reason to hope that the reputation which has preceded him here will be proved well founded. Miss Keane had not much to do as Fanny Larrow, but did that little as well as any one could wish for. Messrs. Pearson, Mordant and the other actors acquitted themselves very creditably in their respective parts. The scenery, mounting and appointments were better than one generally finds at this theatre.

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